TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 25, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 20 totaled an estimated 17.7 billion ton-miles, 1.5 percent above the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 16 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 272.1 billion ton-miles, down 4.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 20 totaled 390,471, down 0.8 percent from last year, but 2.4 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.7 percent in the East, and down 0.1 percent in the South and 2.4 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 12 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up by 5,020 cars (27.5 percent), chemicals and allied products increased by 3,083 cars (12.7 percent) and crushed stone, gravel and sand showed a gain of 2,065 cars (18.2 percent). Fifteen of 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 13 totaled 81,707 trailers and/or containers, 9.6 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 15 weeks of the year was 1,250,713 trailers and/or containers, down 4.8 percent from 1984.

The figures for flatcar loadings in the weekly TOFC/COFC report have been discontinued. The increased use of longer trailers has made the figures less and less comparable to the past, as many flatcars now carry only one trailer, where they carried two before.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/20/85:

	Loadings in Week ended April 20, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	19,982	D	5,249	20.8	D	956	4.6
Other farm products	3,857	D	494	11.4	I	375	10.8
Metallic ores	15,556	D	1,199	7.2	I	2,324	17.6
Coal	117,091	D	3,882	3.2	D	1,262	1.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,434	I	2,065	18.2	I	567	4.4
Nonmetallic minerals	11,054	D	511	4.4	I	639	6.1
Grain mill products	10,475	I	522	5.2	I	272	2.7
Food and kindred products	11,491	I	1,238	12.1	I	513	4.7
Primary forest products	11,575	D	2,414	17.3	D	374	3.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,777	I	520	7.2	I	479	6.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,868	D	400	2.8	D	131	0.9
Chemicals and allied products	27,330	I	3,083	12.7	I	1,070	4.1
Petroleum products	4,641	I	133	3.0	D	65	1.4
Stone, clay and glass products	11,538	I	401	3.6	I	60	0.5
Coke	5,469	D	78	1.4	I	247	4.7
Metals and products	8,791	D	1,629	15.6	D	48	0.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	23,257	I	5,020	27.5	I	2,327	11.1
Waste and scrap materials	9,322	D	56	0.6	I	83	0.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,445	D	451	6.5	I	405	6.7
All other carloads	57,393	I	236	0.4	I	2,770	5.1
LCL traffic	125	D	113	47.9	I	6	5.0
Total Cars Loaded	390,471	D	3,260	0.8	I	9,301	2.4
Corresponding week of 1984	393,731						

	1985	1984	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (16 weeks)	5,898,071	6,248,488	D	5.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
15 Weeks ended April 13	254.4	267.2	D	4.8
Week ended April 20	17.7	17.4	I	1.5
16 weeks cumulative	272.1	284.6	D	4.4

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